

"Fostering the Promotion of Democratic Values"
Peace and Development Institute (PDI)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$19,978

PROJECT SUMMARY: This project seeks to make human rights teaching a permanent, integral and effective part of the education system that benefits secondary school children and their parents at the grassroots level. This project aims to heighten awareness and understanding among schoolteachers of the values of human rights, democracy, civic education, non-violent conflict resolution, and of laws against domestic violence, human trafficking, and child prostitution. This project will also train the teachers in ways to introduce these concepts into their classrooms and domestic communities, enabling thousands of Cambodian students to learn about human rights ideas and laws for years to come.

The first five months of this project will be devoted to training 300 school teachers in rural areas of Pursat and Kompong Chhnang provinces. Exact locations will be selected in consultation with the Ministry of Education according to criteria devised to ensure the training is conducted in areas where it is most needed and can be used most effectively. The training will be broken into 10 three-day intensive workshops with 30 trainees in each session.

Day one: Participants will be provided with a package of core human rights and legal educational materials. The materials will include the official curriculum for teaching human rights and basic laws using both active and integrated methodologies. Master trainers will encourage active participation through group discussions about major human rights issues. The trainees will also learn the basics of student-centered learning and specific techniques like role-playing and simulation. They will analyze the curriculum and methodological problems involved, arrive at their own suggestions and conclusions, and then present their thoughts to the class for the next day's task.

Day two: With the technical advice of the master trainers, participants will formulate detailed teaching plans that they will put into practice during the following day's demonstration classes. As model plans are developed, the

trainees will actively discuss and debate their ideas before adopting their final ideas.

Day three: Participants will demonstrate the plans and ideas for teaching human rights concepts that they developed during the preceding two days. Each demonstration will be followed by discussion, critiques, analysis and evaluation. The refinement of the participants' teaching plans is the output of the whole workshop as participants will then take these model techniques and incorporate them into their lessons for the rest of their teaching careers.

To secure consistent government support, Ministry officials, heads of teacher training institutions and school principals will be closely involved in planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project. During the final month of the project, PDI will monitor lessons conducted by the participants to evaluate the impact of the project.

GRANTEE BACKGROUND: PDI's mission is to help Cambodia succeed in its democratic transition by promoting and protecting human rights, the rule of law, democratic institutions, good governance, a culture of peace, and gender equality. Past activities of the Institute include human rights training methodology for primary and secondary schools in Cambodia and a variety of human rights and democracy projects on women's rights, land disputes, women in politics, and community legal education. For these activities PDI has received funding from the Government of Finland, the Global Fund for Women, UNIFEM, the Australian Government, UNIFEM CEDAW, the Urgent Action Fund, NZAID, the GERBOBE Foundation, and OSJI through the Legal Clinic of Pannasastra University of Cambodia.